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APPLICANT : MITSUBISHI PETROCHEM CO LTD;

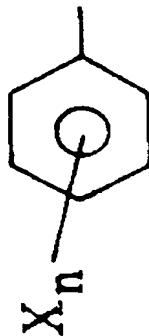
INVENTOR : TAKAGI KENJI;

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TITLE : PREPARATION OF AROMATIC
 ACETALDEHYDE

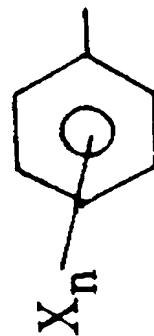
I

CH₂OH



II

CHO



ABSTRACT : PURPOSE: To obtain an aromatic aldehyde useful as a raw material for perfume, agricultural chemicals, etc. in high yield and industrially advantageously, by oxidizing an aromatic alcohol, e.g., alkoxybenzyl alcohol, etc. in liquid phase using a catalyst comprising both Pd and/or Pt and Pb and/or Cu.

CONSTITUTION: An aromatic alcohol (e.g., 3-phenoxybenzyl alcohol, etc.) shown by the formula I (X is alkoxy, phenoxy; n is an integer of 1~3, with the proviso that X may be the same or different when n is 2 or 3; when X is methoxy and in meta- or para position, two methoxy groups may be subjected to ring formation to form -OCH₂O-) is oxidized with an oxygen-containing gas in liquid phase in an organic solvent (e.g., toluene, p-xylene, etc.) using a catalyst comprising both Pd and/or Pt and Pb and/or Cu, to give an aromatic aldehyde (e.g., alkoxybenzaldehyde, etc.) shown by the formula II. The oxidation in liquid phase is preferably carried out in the absence of an alkali compound. No expensive reagent is required and no pollution occurs.

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